

*Application No. 09/820,230
Amendment dated November 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 21, 2004*

*Docket No. 0505-0759P
Art Unit: 2128
Page 11 of 18*

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

One sheet of revised formal drawings (FIG. 10) is attached in order to address the issue raised by the Examiner.

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 3-9, and 11-16 are amended, and claims 17-20 are added. Claims 1 and 9 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicant's claim for foreign priority.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 29, 2001.

Substitute Specification

In accordance with MPEP §608.01(q), Applicant herewith submits a substitute specification in the above-identified application. Also included is a marked-up copy of the original specification which shows the portions of the original specification which are being added and deleted. Applicant respectfully submits that the substitute specification includes no new matter and that the substitute specification includes the same changes as are indicated in the marked-up copy of the original specification showing additions and deletions.

Because the number of amendments which are being made to the original specification would render it difficult to consider the case, or to arrange the papers for printing or copying, Applicant has voluntarily submitted this substitute specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the substitute specification be entered into the application.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because the character “t” (paragraph [0041]) is not indicated in the drawings, and the reference numeral “D5” is not mentioned in the drawings.

In order to overcome this objection, Applicant is concurrently submitting one sheet of revised formal drawings (FIG. 10) deleting “D5”, and is amending original paragraph [0041] of the specification to delete the character “t”, thereby addressing each of the deficiencies pointed out by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1, 3, and 7-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has set forth certain instances wherein the claim language lacks antecedent basis or is not clearly understood.

In order to overcome this rejection, Applicant has amended each of the objected-to claims to correct each of the deficiencies specifically pointed out by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the words "inherent in" is changed to "corresponding to" in claims 1 and 9, and the word "interference" is further defined in claims 7 and 15.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tang et al. (U.S. 5,880,362). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Arguments Regarding Independent Claims 1 and 9

Except for the issues under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph pointed out by the Examiner above, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 9 as currently rewritten include a combination of steps/elements not taught or suggested by the references cited by the Examiner.

For example, independent claims 1 and 9 recite opening/means for opening "a specification value entering window for entering specification values." In addition, independent claims 1 and 9 recite entering/means for entering "specification values ... in said specification value entering window." The specification value opening window for entering specification values is shown in FIG. 3 of the present invention.

As a result of the novel features set forth in claims 1 and 9, an operator can easily recognize the definition points where specification values, thus addressing a problem found in the conventional art.

By contrast, Figure 2 of Tang et al. merely discloses a Finite Element Modeling Program 42 and Video Display 52. Nowhere in Tang et al. is there any suggestion of a specification value opening window for entering specification values or entering specification values in a specification value entering window, as presently recited in independent claims 1 and 9.

In the Examiner's Office Action, the Examiner refers to column 3, lines 32-60 of Tang et al. in order to disclose the above aspects of the present invention. However, this portion of Tang et al. merely indicates the selection of basic vehicle parameters and refers to FIG. 1 of Tang et al.. Figure 1 of Tang et al. is a flow chart. There is no indication in Figure 1 that a specification value entering window is opened as in the presently claimed invention. There is also no indication that specification values are entered in a specification value entering window as recited in the independent claims of the present invention. Accordingly, the Tang et al. reference fails to anticipate the independent claims of the present invention.

Thus, at least for the reasons stated above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of steps/elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 9 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record.

Therefore, claims 1 and 9 are in condition for allowance.

Added Dependent Claims 17-20

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 17 and 19 are added to include highlighting/means for highlighting specification values corresponding to the indicated suspension, and disabling entry of specification values not corresponding to the indicated suspension.

Support for the novel features set forth in claim 17 and 19 can be found in the specification, for example, in paragraphs [0007], [0031] and [0032] of the original specification. As a result of the novel features set forth in claims 1 and 9, an operator can easily recognize the definition points where specification values need to be entered.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of steps/elements included in each of dependent claim 17 and 19 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Tang.

For example, nowhere in the Tang document is there any hint of steps for (or means for) highlighting specification values corresponding to the indicated suspension and disabling entry of specification values not corresponding to the indicated suspension (as set forth in claims 1 and 9). The Examiner refers to Tang column 3, lines 32-60; however Tang is silent about highlighting specification values corresponding to the indicated suspension and disabling entry of specification values not corresponding to the indicated suspension.

In addition, the Examiner will note that dependent claims 18 and 20 are also added to set forth additional novel features of the invention. Support for the features of claims 18 and 20 can be found in paragraph [0044] of the original specification.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully requested.

All claims for this application are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant respectfully petitions for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$430 is being filed concurrently herewith.

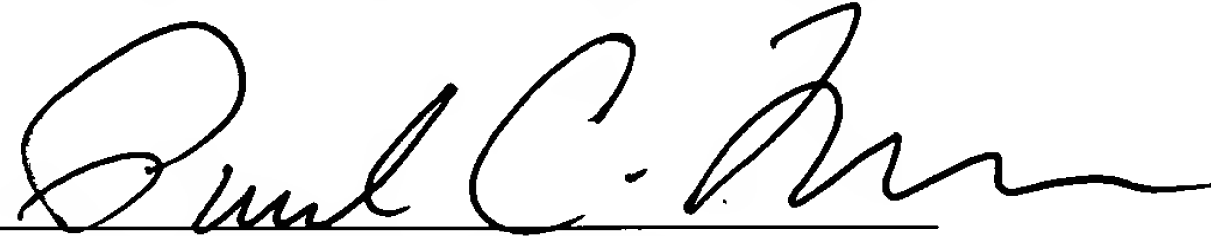
Application No. 09/820,230
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Docket No. 0505-0759P
Art Unit: 2128
Page 18 of 18

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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PCL:CTT/ags

Attachments: One sheet of Revised Formal Drawings (FIG. 10)
Substitute Specification (Clean and Marked-Up Copies)